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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

	KOWEN	
✓	JOHNSTON	
✓	JOPPE	
✓	SOULE	
	ELSETH	
	SHORT	
	QUIRT	
	COMERVILLE	
✓	BAUER	
✓	BARROWS	
✓	ELLIOTT	
✓	EVANS	
✓	CHAPMAN	
✓	VOELBERNDT	
	ROLINSON	

FILE NO. 207-02.3

MONTHLY REPORT

* YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK *

NOVEMBER

1943

IMPORTANT

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

December 4, 1943.

MEMORANDUM for the Director.

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park for the month of November 1943:

Weather Conditions. The weather during the month of November was in direct contrast to a year ago. While November 1942 was an unusually severe month, the weather this month was extremely mild, with very little precipitation. Although the east, south and northeast entrances were closed in October and tourist travel was discontinued, the rangers and winter keepers were able to travel the roads to Canyon and Old Faithful almost until the last day of November, and travel was also possible between Mammoth and West Yellowstone. However, this section of highway was closed to tourist travel on November 24 and the road from Madison Junction to Old Faithful had been closed to tourist travel since November 8.

The total precipitation for the month was only .90 inch while for November a year ago it was 2.54 inches. Thirteen inches of snow fell at Mammoth, as against a total of 98 inches in November 1942. The maximum temperature for November was 55° on the 16th and the minimum 3° on the 26th. There were 10 clear days, 8 partly cloudy and 12 cloudy days during the month.

Snow depths in the interior of the park were considerably less than last year and a comparison of snow depths for the past 5 years at some of the points in the park on November 30 follows:

COMPARATIVE SNOW DEPTHS 1939-43

	1939*	1940	1941	1942	1943
Bechler River		28	5	39	6
Buffalo Ranch		4	4		5
Cascade Creek		32	12	54**	18
Gallatin		16	5		4
Lewis River Divide		40			12
Madison Junction		9	6		
Mammoth		2.5	1	5	2
Northeast Entrance		18	3	29	7
Old Faithful		14	6	42	6
Sportsman's Lake		14	12		
West Yellowstone		16	7	32	6
Tower Falls		4	4.5		1
Lake			10		10

* Very mild month 1939 all roads open. No snow depths available.
** Depth at Grassy Lake Dam.

Special Activities. The Superintendent spent the entire month in the park, with the exception of trips to Billings, Sheridan, Wyoming, Livingston and Bozeman. On November 5, with Mr. Joffe, he went to Billings to attend the Dude Ranchers' Convention and at the close thereof, November 7, went to Sheridan, Wyoming on matters affecting water rights at Devils Tower National Monument. He returned to the Yellowstone on November 8. On November 12 a trip was made to Livingston, with Mr. Joffe, on Yellowstone land matters and to discuss the medical situation with Dr. Windsor and on the 26th a trip was made to Bozeman with Messrs. Evans and Harrows on land matters.

As was the case in the Third War Loan Drive, Yellowstone made an enviable record in the National War Fund Drive. A total of $971.65 was collected in the park and turned over to the Livingston, Montana chapter as a part of the Park County, Montana quota. One hundred thirty-six families contributed an average of $7.17 per family. There were less than 300 people in the park to solicit so that the sum collected averages more than $3.20 per person. Almost every employee in the park contributed a full day's salary or more.

Inspections. Captain S. S. Luce, Superintendent of Custer Battlefield National Cemetery, in November 15; departed 17th.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. A considerable amount of time was spent in the preparation of plans and sketches for the Gallatin and Gardiner addition to the Yellowstone and in computing acreage and the like. During the latter part of the month the Park Engineer spent two days at Custer Battlefield National Cemetery locating corners for the Sioux Indian Battlefield and also locating points at which Superintendent Luce had recently found new evidence of the probable route covered by Custer between Lier Point and the Custer Monument.

General Publicity. The 1943 Annual Report was mimeographed during the latter part of the month and copies will be distributed early in December.

Road Maintenance. The two remaining road crews in the Mammoth section were released on November 9. Light road maintenance, consisting mostly of the removal of rock and the replacing of snow stakes, was carried on by Road Foreman White with the assistance of one or two helpers. No snow removal has been required so far this season and all roads, except the Gardiner to Cooke section, were closed for general travel before the end of the month.

Other Maintenance. The regular maintenance work on buildings at Mammoth was carried on by the carpenters, painters and plumbers.

Park Operators. The general store at Mammoth remained open to take care of park residents and the Haynes Picture Shop operated until November 24, on which date Mr. Haynes moved to his winter headquarters at Bozeman.

Mr. W. M. Nichols, President of the Yellowstone Park Company, and Mr. R. B. Weir, Attorney for the company, visited the park on November 23.

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Increase or Decrease in Travel. Two hundred seventy-six cars has entered the park during November as compared with 1[illegible] for the same month in 1942. The total persons entering the park for this travel year is 2,920 as compared to 4,944 persons for 1942, a decrease of 40.[illegible].

Ninety-nine cars entered the park in November as compared with 70 for the same month in 1942. The total cars entering the park for this travel year is 935 as compared to 1,757 for 1942 or a decrease of 46.7[illegible].

Visitors. There were no special visitors to the park during the month.

Ranger Service. The entire month was characterized by very little snow and bad weather. Although this did not actually cause any movement of elk out of the park on the north boundary considerable patrolling was necessary in the Gallatin area where elk have been crossing the park line into open hunting territory. In the Gallatin area considerable poaching has also occurred along Highway 191. Inasmuch as 10 elk have been illegally killed in this area so far this winter, it has been necessary to organize a constant night patrol in an attempt to apprehend the violators. Thus district rangers were assigned alternately from headquarters on this detail and with what help the district ranger from West Yellowstone could give, they have carried on this night work constantly throughout the entire last half of the month.

The West Yellowstone road was closed to general travel on November 2[illegible]. This relieved one park ranger for hunting patrol duty in the West Yellowstone District.

A park ranger was used one night each week to relieve the regular watchman on his night off.

Whenever possible, compensatory time was given men for overtime earned on forest fire duty. Pressing protection activities did not allow the giving of any considerable amounts of this time in several cases.

Inventories were taken in a number of protection establishments during the month.

A permanent ranger force numbered 26 during the month as no positions were vacated or filled.

Police Protection. No cases were brought before the United States Commissioner during November.

Accidents. No automobile accidents occurred during November.

Wildlife Administration. Elk. The unusually mild weather which prevailed during the month allowed the elk to remain on the higher portions of the winter range and few were observed on the intermediate and lower areas. There was no migration to open hunting territory north of the park boundaries and the utilization of forage on the lower winter range by elk was negligible.

Bison. The bison which constitute the Lamar herd remained scattered generally over the higher winter range but smaller numbers were observed in the Horseshoe and Hellroaring areas. There was no apparent tendency to concentrate in the vicinity of the hay fields at Lamar.

Considerable time and effort was devoted to preparing for the reduction of the Lamar herd this winter and at the close of the month this work was progressing satisfactorily. It is hoped that sufficient snow will accumulate during December to make trapping of bison possible by early January.

Hunting Season--Gallatin. By the close of November 29 hunters had taken 248 elk, 93 deer and 1 bear in the Gallatin area where the elk season closed December 1. The objective was the harvesting of 350 to 400 elk from the Gallatin herd this season.

Park County, Montana. Most of the small number of elk taken in the Gardiner-Jardine area were from resident bands which spent the summer outside the park. Due to the light hunting the State of Montana has not yet established a game checking station on the Yellowstone River and no figures on the kill are available.

Teton County, Wyoming. The elk season in Teton County, Wyoming closed on November 15 and a newspaper report quoting the State Game Warden stated that 6,000 animals were removed this year.

Fish Culture. The annual fish planting report was submitted during the month.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of the Federal Employees Union No. 463 was held in the Canteen building on November 1.

Edmund S. Rogers,
Superintendent.

cc- Region Two
JJ/san